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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to

impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention,

rather than to avoid prior art.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-9, 11-17 and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,428,406 (hereinafter "Andrew") in view of

U.S. Patent 5,532,744 (hereinafter "Akiwumi-Assani").

To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim

limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180

USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). (MPEP ¶ 2143.03).

Independent claim 1 of the present application includes limitations not suggested

or taught by Andrew or Akiwumi-Assani. As a result, claim1 is patentable over Andrew

in view of Akiwumi-Assani.

Specifically, claim 1 of the present application includes the limitation of

"assigning, via a first processor of a group of processors sharing said memory, at least one

independent slice per processor to be decoded by the processors in parallel, including

assigning a varying number of slices to individual processors."

Andrew nor Akiwumi-Assani disclose assigning a varying number of slices to

individual processors. For example, Andrew discloses partitioning the blocks of a frame

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into their horizontal rows, and all the blocks of a row are processed in left to right order

by a single DSP. (Andrew, column 7, line 55-58.) Other wise said, Andrew is limited to

disclosing encoding digitized video images by which blocks are divided into their

horizontal rows and all the blocks of a row are processed in left to right order by a single

DSP.

As such, claim 1 of the present application is patentable over Andrew in view of

Akiwumi-assani because it includes limitations not suggested or taught by Andrew or

Akiwumi-assani.

Applicant's additional independent claims 9 and 17 of the present application

include similar limitations as discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. As a

result, applicant's independent claims 9 and 17 would also be patentable over Andrew in

view Akiwumi-assani, for the reasons set forth above.

In addition, claims 3-8, 11-16 and 19-24 depend from the independent claims

discussed above, and therefore include the limitations of the referenced independent

claims. As a result, claims 3-8, 11-16 and 19-24 include the distinguished limitations, as

discussed above, and are therefore patentable over Andrew in view of Akiqumi-assani.

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## **CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call John Ward at (408) 720-8300, x237.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 1// 9

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Amdt. dated \_

Reply to Office action of June 19, 2003